

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:19-cv-01507-RC**

CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE v. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
THE INTERIOR et al  
Assigned to: Judge Rudolph Contreras  
Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

Date Filed: 05/23/2019  
Jury Demand: None  
Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of  
Information Act  
Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

**Plaintiff**

**CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE**

represented by **Lee A. Steven**  
CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE  
1310 N. Courthouse Road  
Suite 700  
Arlington, VA 22201-2961  
(571) 329-1716  
Email: [lee.steven@causeofaction.org](mailto:lee.steven@causeofaction.org)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Ryan Patrick Mulvey**  
CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE  
1310 N. Courthouse Road  
Suite 700  
Arlington, VA 22201-2961  
571-444-2841  
Email: [ryan.mulvey@causeofaction.org](mailto:ryan.mulvey@causeofaction.org)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

V.

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE  
INTERIOR**

represented by **James O. Bickford**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
Civil Division, Federal Programs Branch  
1100 L Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20530  
(202) 305-7632  
Fax: (202) 616-8470  
Email: [james.bickford@usdoj.gov](mailto:james.bickford@usdoj.gov)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**

represented by **James O. Bickford**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
COMMERCE**

represented by **James O. Bickford**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION**

represented by **James O. Bickford**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH &  
HUMAN SERVICES**

represented by **James O. Bickford**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
HOMELAND SECURITY**

represented by **James O. Bickford**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**

represented by **James O. Bickford**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

represented by **James O. Bickford**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE  
TREASURY**

represented by **James O. Bickford**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Defendant**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
TRANSPORTATION**

represented by **James O. Bickford**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Defendant**

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY**

represented by **James O. Bickford**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Defendant**

**WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF  
MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

represented by **James O. Bickford**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Defendant**

**COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS  
GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND  
EFFICIENCY**

represented by **James O. Bickford**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Defendant**

**NATIONAL RAILROAD  
PASSENGER CORPORATION**

TERMINATED: 06/13/2019  
doing business as  
AMTRAK  
TERMINATED: 06/13/2019

Date Filed	#	Docket Text
05/23/2019	<u>1</u>	COMPLAINT against All Defendants ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-6142017) filed by CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit 1, # <u>2</u> Exhibit 2, # <u>3</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>4</u> Summons U.S. Att'y Gen., # <u>5</u> Summons Civil Process Clerk, # <u>6</u> Summons DOI, # <u>7</u> Summons USDA, # <u>8</u> Summons DOC, # <u>9</u> Summons DOEd, # <u>10</u> Summons HHS, # <u>11</u> Summons DHS, # <u>12</u> Summons DOJ, # <u>13</u> Summons State, # <u>14</u> Summons Treasury, # <u>15</u> Summons DOT, # <u>16</u> Summons EPA, # <u>17</u> Summons OMB, # <u>18</u> Summons CIGIE, # <u>19</u> Summons Amtrak)(Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 05/23/2019)
05/23/2019	<u>2</u>	LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE (Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 05/23/2019)
05/23/2019	<u>3</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by Lee A. Steven on behalf of CAUSE OF ACTION INSTITUTE (Steven, Lee) (Entered: 05/23/2019)
05/23/2019		Case Assigned to Judge Rudolph Contreras. (zef, ) (Entered: 05/23/2019)
05/23/2019	<u>4</u>	SUMMONS (16) Issued Electronically as to COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Notice and Consent)(zef, ) (Entered: 05/23/2019)
05/28/2019	<u>5</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY served on 5/28/2019; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE served on 5/28/2019; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE served on 5/28/2019; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION served on 5/28/2019; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES served on 5/28/2019; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY served on 5/28/2019; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE served on 5/28/2019; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 5/28/2019; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR served on 5/28/2019; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY served on 5/28/2019; WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET served on 5/28/2019 (Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 05/28/2019)
05/29/2019	<u>6</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY served on 5/28/2019; NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION served on 5/28/2019; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION served on 5/28/2019 (Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 05/29/2019)
05/29/2019	<u>7</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 05/29/2019. (Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 05/29/2019)
05/29/2019	<u>8</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 5/29/2019. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 6/28/2019. (Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 05/29/2019)
06/13/2019	<u>9</u>	NOTICE of Voluntary Dismissal re National Railroad Passenger Corporation <i>with prejudice</i> (Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 06/13/2019)

06/17/2019	<u>10</u>	RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE served on 6/17/2019 (Mulvey, Ryan) (Entered: 06/17/2019)
06/27/2019	<u>11</u>	NOTICE of Appearance by James O. Bickford on behalf of COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Bickford, James) (Entered: 06/27/2019)
06/27/2019	<u>12</u>	Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to File Answer re <u>1</u> Complaint,, by COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Bickford, James) (Entered: 06/27/2019)
06/27/2019		MINUTE ORDER granting <u>12</u> Consent Motion for Extension of Time to Answer: It is hereby ORDERED that the motion is GRANTED and that Defendants shall respond to the complaint by July 12, 2019. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Rudolph Contreras on June 27, 2019. (lcrc2) (Entered: 06/27/2019)
06/28/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Answer due by 7/12/2019. (tj) (Entered: 06/28/2019)
07/12/2019	<u>13</u>	ANSWER to Complaint by COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.(Bickford, James) (Entered: 07/12/2019)
07/15/2019		MINUTE ORDER: It is hereby ORDERED that, by July 29, 2019, the parties shall meet, confer, and submit a joint status report that includes a proposed briefing schedule. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Rudolph Contreras on July 15, 2019. (lcrc2) (Entered: 07/15/2019)
07/29/2019	<u>14</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 07/29/2019)
07/29/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of <u>14</u> the parties' Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file another joint status report by October 11, 2019. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Rudolph Contreras on July 29, 2019. (lcrc2) (Entered: 07/29/2019)
07/30/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 10/11/2019 (tj) (Entered: 07/30/2019)

10/11/2019	<u>15</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 10/11/2019)
10/16/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of <u>15</u> the parties' Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file another joint status on or before December 9, 2019. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Rudolph Contreras on 10/16/2019. (lcrc2) (Entered: 10/16/2019)
10/31/2019	<u>16</u>	NOTICE of Change of Address by Lee A. Steven (Steven, Lee) (Entered: 10/31/2019)
12/09/2019	<u>17</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 12/09/2019)
12/09/2019		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of <u>17</u> the parties' Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file another joint status on or before January 17, 2020. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Rudolph Contreras on 12/9/2019. (lcrc2) (Entered: 12/09/2019)
12/10/2019		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 1/17/2020. (tj) (Entered: 12/10/2019)
01/17/2020	<u>18</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 01/17/2020)
01/21/2020		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of <u>18</u> the parties' Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file another joint status on or before February 14, 2020. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Rudolph Contreras on 1/21/2020. (lcrc2) (Entered: 01/21/2020)
01/29/2020		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 2/14/2020 (tj) (Entered: 01/29/2020)
02/14/2020	<u>19</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 02/14/2020)
02/18/2020		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of <u>19</u> the parties' Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file another joint status report on or before March 30, 2020. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Rudolph Contreras on 2/18/2020. (lcrc2) (Entered: 02/18/2020)
02/25/2020		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 3/30/2020. (tj) (Entered: 02/25/2020)

03/30/2020	<u>20</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 03/30/2020)
03/30/2020		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of <u>20</u> the parties' Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file another joint status report on or before June 1, 2020. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Rudolph Contreras on 3/30/2020. (lcrc2) (Entered: 03/30/2020)
03/31/2020		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 6/1/2020. (tj) (Entered: 03/31/2020)
06/01/2020	<u>21</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 06/01/2020)
06/02/2020		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of <u>21</u> the parties' Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file another joint status report on or before July 1, 2020. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Rudolph Contreras on 6/2/2020. (lcrc2) (Entered: 06/02/2020)
06/02/2020		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 7/1/2020. (tj) (Entered: 06/02/2020)
07/01/2020	<u>22</u>	Joint STATUS REPORT by COUNCIL OF THE INSPECTORS GENERAL ON INTEGRITY AND EFFICIENCY, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, WHITE HOUSE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET. (Bickford, James) (Entered: 07/01/2020)
07/01/2020		MINUTE ORDER: Upon consideration of <u>22</u> the parties' Joint Status Report, it is hereby ORDERED that the parties shall file another joint status report on or before August 1, 2020. SO ORDERED. Signed by Judge Rudolph Contreras on 7/1/2020. (lcrc2) (Entered: 07/01/2020)
07/02/2020		Set/Reset Deadlines: Status Report due by 8/1/2020. (tj) (Entered: 07/02/2020)